CONSTITUTION

OF THE ORDER OF

Sovereigns of Industry.

Revised and Adopted at the Annual Session of the National Council, held at Philadelphia, Pa.
January 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, A. D. 1875.

WEST & LEE GAME AND PRINTING CO., PRINTERS,
Worcester, Mass.

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REVISED AND ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JANUARY 12TH, 13TH, 14TH AND 15TH, A. D. 1875.

Organized January 14th, 1874.

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT—WM. H. EARLE, Worcester, Mass.
VICE PRESIDENT—S. S. DAVIS, Nashua, N. H.
SECRETARY—J. BUTTERFIELD, Boston, Mass.*
TREASURER—E. W. DICKINSON, Springfield, Mass.
LECTURER—JOHN ORVIS, Boston, Mass.
STEWARD—MARY A. DICKINSON, Springfield, Mass.
ASS'T STEWARD—EDW'D M. GRAVES, New Haven, Ct.
INSIDE GUARD—JAS. HALLOWAY, St. Albans, Vt.
OUTSIDE GUARD—J. G. HALL, St. Louis, Mo.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

WM. H. EARLE, Worcester, Mass.
H. T. ELLIOTT, Chicago, Ill.
A. H. KENDALL, Springfield, Mass.
M. W. MORTON, Providence, R. I.
SOLOMON STUART, Portland, Me.

*All communications to the Secretary should be addressed to Worcester, Mass.

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PREAMBLE.

The Laboring classes include the most numerous part of the people in civilized society. On their toils and worth the social welfare of society ultimately rests. Their redemption from wrong and suffering is of a corresponding importance. But thus far in history, their energies have been so absorbed, and their faculties so limited by their material taskwork, and by their deprivation of the best opportunities for spiritual and social culture, that they have been very largely the passive servants of the social order devised for and imposed on them by the smaller, but more thoroughly organized portion of society, called the ruling classes.

It is an unquestionable truth that the ruling spirit in civilized society, is the personal and class pursuit of selfish interests. Accordingly under the influence of this spirit, the aristocratic classes have monopolized privileges to themselves and thereby fastened on the working classes burdens which are unjust and unnecessary, and ought to be abolished. Therefore, knowing that in society as well as in nature the organized forces and elements appropriate and control the incoherent ones, that power is not only wielded but also engendered by union and co-operative exertion, we insti-

tute the Order of the SOVEREIGNS OF INDUSTRY, for the purpose of overthrowing these evils, elevating the character, improving the condition, and as far as possible, perfecting the happiness of the laboring classes of every calling, and thus doing our part towards the redemption of the world. The Order will aim to cultivate in its members generous sympathies, soundness of thought, comprehensiveness of policy, and a supreme respect for the rights of others, with an inflexible determination to maintain their own, while for labor it will seek to secure full and free opportunities.

By all the wise and kindly measures it can command, it will present organized resistance to the organized encroachments of the monopolies and other evils of the existing industrial and commercial system. It will try to establish a better system of economical exchanges, and to promote, on a basis of equity and liberty, mutual fellowship and co-operative action among the producers and consumers of wealth throughout the earth.

We wage no war with persons or classes, but only with wrongs, discords and hardships, which have existed too long. We most earnestly deprecate hatred, jealousy, or envy between classes, and call on all people to be of one mind in the spirit of justice. We abhor every scheme of arbitrary agrarianism or violence, and shall use only such instrumentalities as are sanctioned by demonstrated principles of moral philosophy and social science, the universal

interests of humanity, and a philanthropy rising impartially above all distinctions of class, sex, creed, race or nationality.

In the prosecution of this work, we bespeak the support of kindred associations, and cordially extend to them the right hand of fellowship, especially to the Patrons of Husbandry, whose colossal growth and power already command that consideration so justly due to the great basic industry of Agriculture.

With these hopes and in this spirit, the Order of the Sovereigns of Industry has established the following Constitution for the government of its National Council.

CONSTITUTION.

The organization of the Sovereigns of Industry shall consist of National, State, and Subordinate Councils.

ARTICLE I.

This body shall be known as the National Council of the Sovereigns of Industry.

ARTICLE II.—Membership.

Sec. 1. It shall be composed of two representatives from each State Council, who shall be in good standing in their Subordinate Councils.

SEC. 2. Every representative to the National Council previous to being admitted as a member thereof, must present a certificate in the following form:

To the National Council of the Order of Sovereigns of Industry.

This is to certify that has been duly elected to represent the State Council of the State of for the term of year from this date, and is duly qualified to become a member of said National Council.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of this State Council, this day of A. D. 18

Attest:

President.

(Seal.) *Secretary.*

SEC. 3. Each Officer, Representative and Member of the National Council shall receive from its funds a per diem of $3.00 for each day in attendance on its Sessions, and mileage at 3 cents per mile each way by the most direct route from his place of residence to the place of meeting.

ARTICLE III.—JURISDICTION.

The National Council shall be the head of the Order. It shall be the originator and depository of all Charters, Rituals and Secret Work of the Order. It shall have jurisdiction over all State Councils, and all Subordinate Councils in States or Territories where no State Councils exist. It shall issue all Charters for State and Subordinate Councils; and may suspend or revoke the same for proper cause. It shall have power to receive all appeals and complaints, and redress all grievances arising in Councils within its jurisdiction, and of enacting laws for its own government and support.

ARTICLE IV.—Officers.

The Officers of the National Council shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Lecturer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, and an Executive Committee, consisting of the President and four members, whose terms of office shall be two years. Any member of the National Council shall be eligible to any office; and all officers shall be elected by ballot, and must receive a majority of all valid votes cast. Vacancies occurring, from any cause, may be filled at a regular or special session of the National Council; and all officers so chosen shall serve for the remainder of the year.

ARTICLE V.—Duties of Officers.

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at the sessions of the National Council, and preserve order and decorum; see that all officers and members of Committees properly perform their respective duties; that the Constitution and Laws of the National Council are observed and obeyed; decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the National Council by two members; fill by appointment, temporarily, any vacancy occasioned by the temporary absence or disqualification of any officers of the National Council; appoint all Committees, unless otherwise ordered; sign all orders on the Treasurer for such sums and purposes as may be voted by the National Council or Executive Committee, and such other papers as may require his official signature to authenticate. He may appoint Deputies, and grant Dispensations for Subordinate Councils, on petitions properly made, and institute the same by Deputy or in person, in States and Territories where no State Councils exist. He shall transmit to State

Councils, and Deputies where no State Councils exist, the Pass Words. He shall, at each annual session, present and cause to be read his annual report. He shall cause to be executed, and securely preserve and keep, the official bonds of the Secretary and Treasurer. He may grant Dispensations, during the recess of the National Council, for the institution of State Councils. He may hear and decide such appeals and questions of law as may be submitted to him; and such decisions shall be binding until reversed by the National Council.

SEC. 2. The VICE PRESIDENT shall, in the event of the death, resignation or removal of his superior officer, act as President. He shall preside at the meetings of the National Council in the absence of the President. In the absence of both, the Secretary shall call the meeting to order, and the Council shall elect by ballot a person to preside. He shall have general charge of the doors.

SEC. 3. The SECRETARY shall keep a just and true record of all the proceedings of the National Council at each session. He shall attest all orders drawn on the Treasurer. He shall collect all revenues of the National Council, and shall pay over to the Treasurer, weekly, all money received. He shall have charge of the seal, books, papers and other properties of the National Council, and deliver the same to his successor when required by the National Council or the Executive Committee. He shall notify officially all State Councils and members of the National Council of all sessions to be held; carry on all necessary correspondence; keep a register of all State and Subordinate Councils under the jurisdiction of the National Council, and also of the members of the National Council. He shall attest all official papers and documents. He shall have power to provide himself, at the expense of the National Council,

with such books, papers and stationery as are necessary. He shall render annually to the Executive Committee, or as often as they may require, copies of his accounts with all persons or Councils, for inspection. All office expenses shall be paid by the National Council. Before entering upon his duties he shall give to the President of the National Council, a good and sufficient Bond in the sum of $5,000, with two competent sureties. Said Bond shall be in the custody and care of the President.

SEC. 4. The TREASURER shall receive all funds for the use of the National Council from the Secretary, giving to him a receipt for the same; pay all orders drawn on him by the President, properly attested by the Secretary; keep the accounts in a proper manner, and give a statement in writing of all his transactions at the stated sessions, or when required so to do by the National Council or Executive Committee. Before entering upon the duties of his office he shall give to the President of the National Council a good and sufficient Bond in the sum of $5,000, with two competent sureties. Said Bond shall be in the custody and care of the President.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the LECTURER to visit whenever and wherever the President may direct, and in the judgment of the Executive Committee, the good of the Order may require. He may, on the request of the President of any State Council, and by the direction of the President of the National Council, go into any State in his official capacity, to lecture and organize Councils under the direction, while there, of the officers of the State Council.

SEC. 6. The STEWARD and ASSISTANT STEWARD shall assist in the opening of the National Council, and in preserving order in the same, and execute the commands of the President.

SEC. 7. The INNER GUARD shall have charge of the inner door, under the direction of the Vice President. He shall allow no one to enter when the National Council is open, except in accordance with the Rules of the Order.

SEC. 8. The OUTER GUARD shall have charge of the outer door, and allow no person to enter the ante-room except in accordance with the Rules of the Order, unless ordered so to do by the Vice President.

ARTICLE VI.—SESSIONS.

SEC. 1. The National Council shall hold an annual session on the Third Tuesday in March, at such place as may be determined by the Executive Committee, or by vote of the National Council.

SEC. 2. At the annual sessions of the National Council reports shall be submitted from the several State and Subordinate Councils under its jurisdiction, and action taken thereon; and such other business transacted as may legally come before the Council.

SEC. 2. Special sessions may be called by the President at the request of the Presidents of five State Councils, and it shall be his duty to do so when requested by the Presidents of eight State Councils. All special sessions must be called for the transaction of some particular business, the nature of which must be stated in the notices to members, and the deliberations of such sessions shall be confined to the consideration of this business and none other.

ARTICLE VII.—QUORUM.

A representation from a majority of all the State Councils shall constitute a quorum for business in all cases; but no representative of a State Council which has failed to for-

ard to the National Council its returns and tax for the year shall be entitled to a vote, except by unanimous consent.

ARTICLE VIII.—COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to exercise a general supervision over the affairs of the Order during the recess of the National Council; to examine and audit all bills and accounts referred to them by the Council; to inspect, examine and audit the books, vouchers, etc., of the Secretary and Treasurer, and see that the same are properly kept and cared for; to authorize the Treasurer to place in the hands of the Secretary a contingent fund, as may be required; to approve the bonds given by the Secretary and Treasurer, as required by this Constitution; to report to the Council whenever required so to do; and, at the annual meeting, make a detailed report in writing of the transactions of the past year. The expenses incurred in the discharge of their actual official duties shall be paid by the National Council. They shall appoint all purchasing agents, where such are required by the National Council, and they shall inspect the transactions, books, etc., of such agents, at least twice a year. They shall authorize the payment of expenses and compensation to the officers and agents of the Council, as may be deemed advisable, subject to the approval of the National Council.

SEC. 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed:

1st.—A Committee on Laws and Supervision.

2d.—A Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

3d.—A Committee on Credentials and Returns.

SEC. 3. The Committee on Laws and Supervision shall consist of three members, and be appointed at each annual

meeting, to serve during the ensuing year. It shall be their duty to examine into all cases of infraction of the established Laws and Regulations of the Order, and recommend such measures as they may deem expedient for correcting the innovation. They shall consider and report on all matters referred to them by the National Council.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall consist of three members, and be appointed at each annual meeting. It shall be their duty to hear all appeals and grievances which may be referred to them; to examine into the same, and report thereon to the National Council. No member of the Committee shall serve on any case of appeal from the Council of which he is a member.

SEC. 5. The Committee on Credentials and Returns shall consist of three members, and be appointed at each annual meeting. It shall be their duty to examine the credentials of all representatives from State Councils to the National Council, and the annual returns and reports of all State Councils, and Subordinate Councils where no State Councils exist.

ARTICLE IX.—REVENUE.

SEC. 1. Each State Council shall pay quarterly to the National Council, a per capita tax of twenty cents per annum on all members of Subordinate Councils under their supervision. Each Subordinate Council under the immediate control of the National Council shall pay a per capita tax on all members appearing upon their roll, of thirty-two cents per annum, payable quarterly.

SEC. 2. All Charters shall emanate from the National Council only. State Councils shall purchase of the National Council all Charters for Subordinate Councils under their supervision. Price $2.00 each. Charter fee for

State Councils; $20.00 which must be paid before they are instituted.

SEC. 3. Subordinate Councils instituted by the National Council shall pay a Charter fee of $15.00, which shall include Rituals and blanks and a dispensation under which they shall work until a State Council is instituted: when they shall receive through their State Council, in lieu thereof, a Charter.

SEC. 4. All Rituals shall be printed by, and purchased of, the National Council by State Councils for the use of Subordinate Councils. Price $1.00 per set of five.

SEC. 5. Travelling, Withdrawal and Trading Cards must be purchased of the National Council, (who alone are authorized to print them,) through the Secretary of the State Council where one exists, and of the Secretary of the National Council direct by Subordinate Councils under the immediate control of the National Council. Price of Travelling and Withdrawal Cards to State Councils, 10 cents each. To Subordinate Councils, 15 cents each. Trading Cards, to State Councils, $4.00 per 1,000; to Subordinate Councils, 50 cents per 100.

ARTICLE X.—REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

Any officer of the National Council may be removed from office for conduct unbecoming his standing in the Order, or for inattention to the duties of his station, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. But he shall have a fair trial of the charges brought against him.

ARTICLE XI.—ORGANIZATION OF STATE COUNCILS.

SEC. 1. Fifteen or more Subordinate Councils, working in any State, and desiring the formation of a State Council,

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may make application to the Secretary of the National Council; and the President shall thereupon, if there appears no proper cause for delay, cause a notification to be sent to all Councils in the State, appointing a time for the organization of the Council, which shall be not less than ten days subsequent to the date of the notification. He shall issue a Dispensation, and shall be present, in person or by deputy, to institute such Council.

SEC. 2. A State Council at its organization shall consist of two Representatives, from each Subordinate Council, who shall be elected by ballot. Provided that no Subordinate Council shall be entitled to representation until it hasa membership of not less than twenty-five persons. State Councils may determine their membership and the representation from their Subordinate Councils.

SEC. 3. Subordinate and State Councils shall, at first, organize temporarily; but at the end of three months they shall elect officers to serve for the remainder of the year; and thereafter shall elect annually. But Councils instituted within four months previous to the annual session may elect officers to serve until that time.

SEC. 4. Each State Council shall elect two representatives to the National Council, at its last meeting before the annual meeting of the National Council; one for one year, and one for two years: afterwards one each year, to serve for two years.

SEC. 5. State Councils shall make returns quarterly to the National Council, according to blanks furnished, with the tax required; and on January 1st, of each year, shall make an annual report of the work of the year, according to blanks furnished. In default whereof such

State Council shall forfeit its right to representation in the National Council until such returns are made.

SEC. 6. State Councils shall have full power to adopt a Constitution for its own government, and for Subordinate Councils in their jurisdiction, which shall be in harmony with the Constitution and general laws of the National Council: to institute all Subordinate Councils in their State, and to issue Dispensations; to receive the Charter fee which shall in all cases be $15.00: to issue all Charters to Subordinate Councils in their State by vote of the State Councils when in session; to provide for the appointment of purchasing Agents for the State; to assess such tax upon their Subordinate Councils as may be required for the support of the State Council; and to furnish to their Subordinate Councils such information and facilities as may be necessary to promote the objects and the benefits of the Order.

SEC. 7. State and Subordinate Councils shall conform to the Ritual, forms, ceremonies, work and regulations prescribed by the National Council; and all power over their Subordinate Councils not reserved to the National Council shall be exercised by the State Councils. The Ritual adopted by the National Council shall be used in all Subordinate Councils, and any desired alteration in the same must be submitted to and receive the sanction of the National Council.

SEC. 8. The Officers of a State Council shall be the same as provided for the National Council, and found in Article IV of this Constitution, who shall be elected by ballot at the annual session for the term of one year.

SEC. 9. Each State Council shall have a Seal with appropriate device, which shall be affixed to all cards and official documents emanating from them.

SEC. 10. Any State or Subordinate Council may be suspended or dissolved, and its Charter or Dispensation forfeited to the National Council for sufficient cause; but such Council shall have the right of appeal to the higher body.

SEC. 11. In case of sickness or inability of a Representative to the National Council to attend its session, the President of the State Council shall appoint some member of the State Council to represent them at the following session.

ARTICLE XII.—SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

SEC. 1. Any person engaged in INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS, not under sixteen years of age, of good character, and having no interest in conflict with the purposes of the Order, shall be eligible to membership; and no distinction as regards rights and privileges of membership shall be made by this Council, or by any State or Subordinate Council, on account of sex, creed, race, or nationality.

SEC. 2. All applications for Subordinate Councils, where no State Council exists, must be made to the Secretary of the National Council. Under a State Council, application must be made to the Secretary of said State Council, and shall in all cases contain the names of at least fifteen persons, and be accompanied by the Charter fee of $15.00 The President of the State Council (if he approves the same,) shall issue his Dispensation, and either in person or by deputy proceed to institute the Council, collecting the perscribed fee for initiation of each applicant. State Councils may regulate the stated meetings of their Subordinate Councils, but where no State Council exists, they shall hold stated meetings at least once a month.

SEC. 3 The Officers of the Subordinate Council shall be such as provided for the National Council and found in Article IV of this Constitution, and shall be elected by ballot at the last stated meeting in December and for the term of one year, except as provided in Sec. 3, Art. XI.

SEC. 4. The officers of Subordinate Councils shall be installed by the President of the State Council, his Deputy, or a Past President of a Subordinate Council, at the first meeting in the new term, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent. Provided, no officer shall be installed unless he has paid to the Council the amount of all dues, and claims which have accrued against him, and is otherwise in good standing in the Council. All vacancies which may occur shall be filled in the manner of the original selection to serve the remainder of the term: and officers so serving shall be entitled to the honors which may attach to such office.

SEC. 5. Applications for membership in Subordinate Councils shall be made in writing, and be recommended by at least one member of the Council. Every application must be accompanied by the fee of membership. If rejected, the money will be refunded. Three negative votes reject an applicant.

SEC. 6. Any member against whom no charges have been preferred may withdraw from a Subordinate Council by paying up his dues and taking a Withdrawal Card, and may join any other Council without an additional fee by depositing his card, after being balloted for and received, the same as a new member. Such card shall be good one year from date.

SEC. 7. Travelling Cards may be granted to members of the Order on payment of their dues for the time for which the card is granted.

SEC. 8. Any member transgressing the laws of the Order, or conducting in an improper manner, may be tried and suspended or expelled, at the discretion of the Council, in a manner prescribed by its laws.

SEC. 9. Any person in good standing in a Subordinate Council may withdraw from the Order, and is entitled to an honorable discharge, on asking for the same and paying all dues.

SEC. 10. No Subordinate Council shall entertain an application for membership from a person who has been rejected in any Council within two months.

SEC. 11. When an applicant for membership in a Subordinate Council has been rejected, the Secretary of such Council shall notify all other Councils located within ten miles of such rejection.

SEC. 12. No person who has been expelled from a Subordinate Council shall be eligible to membership in any Council until after the expiration of six months.

SEC. 13. Each Subordinate Council shall have a Seal with appropriate device which shall be affixed to all cards and official documents emanating from the Council.

SEC. 14. Any member who shall reveal any business contracts made by the National, State or Subordinate Councils or their agents, to any person not a member of the Order, may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled.

ARTICLE XIII.—SUSPENDED COUNCILS.

SEC. 1. When a Subordinate Council shall be Suspended or shall voluntarily surrender their charter; the last President or other officers shall forward to the Secretary of the National Council, the Charter, Dispensation, all Rituals, Books, Records and papers belonging to the Council

where no State Council exists; otherwise to the Secretary of the State Council. On refusal or neglect of said officers to comply with the above, they shall be debarred the privilege of membership in the Order ever after.

SEC. 2. Members of a Subordinate Council may on application to the Secretary of the National or State Councils (if one exists,) receive a Withdrawal Card on the payment of one dollar and the dues charged against them on the books when said Council surrendered its Charter; if otherwise in good standing. Such Card may be received by any Council of the Order.

ARTICLE XIV.—DEPUTIES FEES.

SEC. 1. Deputies working under the National Council shall receive as fees $5.00 and actual expenses, all of which shall be paid by the Council instituted. State Councils shall regulate Deputies' fees and expenses in their jurisdiction. All previous legislation in conflict with this section is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. All Deputies commissioned to institute Councils shall be instructed, in all cases where it is practicable, to obtain the names of at least four women as charter members. And Blank A. shall contain this instruction.

ARTICLE XV.—DUES.

The annual dues in Subordinate Councils shall be not less than one dollar per year, to be paid quarterly by each member.

The quarterly dues of Subordinate Councils shall date from the first day of January, April, July or October subsequent to the date of their organization; but Councils or-

ganized before the middle of the quarter shall pay one-half the dues for that quarter.

ARTICLE XVI.—Initiation Fees.

The fees shall not be less than two dollars for men, nor less than one dollar for women.

ARTICLE XVII.—Trading Cards.

Trading Cards shall be issued by the National Council, and become a National Card which shall be changed quarterly in color, and shall be a receipt to the member for the quarterly dues. No member can obtain such card until his dues are paid in advance for the quarter.

ARTICLE XVIII.—Jurisdiction of Councils.

All applicants for membership residing out of the State when they wish to make application, must receive the written consent of the President of the State Council where they reside.

ARTICLE XIX.—Rules of Order.

"Cushing's Manual" shall be, and hereby is, accepted and adopted as the authority governing this Council in all Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XX.

Sec. 1. No alterations or amendments shall be made to this Constitution, except by a two-thirds vote of the members present, and such alterations or amendments shall be

submitted in writing at a regular session of the National Council.

SEC. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. This Constitution as amended shall go into effect from and after its passage.

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